

Parks and Trails Report

12/20/2021

Members Present – Ager, McCann

Members Absent - Wetherbee

Staff Present – Craker, Edmondson, Scott

Public – Several members of the public were in attendance

Call to order at 10:33 a.m.

Public Comment: Anne Harper – Questioned where the public property ends/begins in regards to the Road End access. Says last summer cars and boats were parked in a no parking area. Hoped the committee could take broader view of the recreation and use of greenways.

Kathy Frerichs – Planned to work with Trustee McCann on proof reading the update Recreation Plan before providing finalizing.

Karl Wazinsky - Looked forward to hearing discussion on the Mill Pond agenda item.

Laura Cavendish – Asked if the committee could find out more about converting some public road ends to parks. This could eliminate and confusion about its uses in the future.

Kallie Craker - Leelanau Township recently approved their Recreation Plan. Coordination between Village/Township is occurring to expand trail use throughout the area. Currently working to get a trail design professional to assist.

XC Ski Trail – A citizen contacted McCann about the potential of a lighted xc ski trail on golf course. This would require the installation of posts and electric wiring. A suggestion of solar lights/lanterns was brought up as well as the use of red light to be dark sky friendly. There are posts installed around the driving range that could be used as a test area. Most night skiers provide their own headlamps.

Mill Pond/Northport Creek – Trustee Ager contacted Sportsman Club member Dale Stowe and fish biologists working with the DNR and GTB (Heather Hettinger, Paul Stowe, and Brett Fessell) to provide the community with a presentation/public hearing to gather more information on potential restoration of Northport Creek. The current impoundment has been identified as in need of major repair or replacement by the Infrastructure committee. The last time the pond was dredged was 2010 and a large amount of silt is accumulating at its' north end. McCann questioned if the pond played any role in the water issues residents are having on 3rd & 4th St and that soil borings could help provide the answer. It was decided that April or May would be the best time to allow for the public to be made aware of any presentations and allowed for more attendance. Mr. Wazinsky asked if this committee would make the ultimate decision or was it Infrastructure committee. McCann said the full Council would be responsible.

Road Ends – Previously Ager provided the Village council with proposed Road End language that was not approved. McCann cited the Onekama Township Road End Ordinance that is far more comprehensive and wondered if any portions could be used in Northport. The committee would support looking at converting some Road Ends to Park Ends but, would need Council approval.

Playground Equipment – The wood playground structure at South Beach is in need of replacement. A structure that is more suited for younger aged children and inclusive play should be considered. Treasurer Craker suggested looking at grant funding sources for the playground equipment. Laura Cavendish has been looking at equipment for CIP Projects the Planning Commission presented at their December meeting and would email those McCann.

Public Comment: Anne Harper – Asked if the Onekama Road End Ordinance had a definition of where the road actually ends. She noted each road end is different and that should be accounted for when defining parking.

Laura Cavendish – The fact the Road End issue has been brought back up by adjacent property owners makes it relevant and committee should consider some action.

Kallie Craker – Even if the impoundment were removed there would still be needed upkeep at the creek mouth. Removal of the Mill Pond impoundment is not a popular opinion in the community.

Adjournment 11:30.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris McCann